

Message Text

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FOLLOWING REPEAT ANKARA 9719 ACTION SECSTATE INFO ATHENS
LONDON NICOSIA ADANA ISTANBUL IZMIR NATO EUCOM
CINCUSAFE 16 DECEMBER.

QUOTE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ANKARA 9719

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, TU

SUBJ: ECEVIT'S SPEECH TO RPP CONVENTION

1. PARTY LEADER (AND FORMER PRIMIN) BULENT ECEVIT GAVE A
WARMLY RECEIVED THREE-HOUR SPEECH AT THE OPENING SESSION OF THE
22ND ANNUAL CONVENTION OF THE REPUBLICAN PEOPLE'S PARTY ON
DECEMBER 14. AMONG MAJOR TOPICS HE DISCUSSED WERE CYPRUS,
RELATIONS WITH U.S. AND USSR, THE OPIUM POPPY PROBLEM, AND
THE GOVERNMENT CRISIS.

2. HIGHLIGHTS:

A. CYPRUS. ECEVIT SAID THAT HIS GOVERNMENT HAD ATTAINED AN
HONORABLE SOLUTION TO THE CYPRUS QUESTION, WHICH FOR YEARS WAS
THOUGHT TO BE INSOLUBLE, AND THAT TURKEY HAD SHOWN THE WORLD IT
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WAS A PEACE-LOVING NATION, EVEN WHILE IT WAS FIGHTING.

B. SOVIET PROPOSAL ON CYPRUS. ECEVIT REMARKED THAT "NO COUNTRY, BIG OR SMALL, CONCEDED TO THE SOVIET PROPOSAL ON CYPRUS, BUT NO ONE COULD EXPLICITLY REJECT IT. ONLY WE DID." HOWEVER, HE CONTINUED, BY KEEPING IN MIND "JUSTIFIABLE SOVIET ANXIETY OVER WORLD PEACE AND THE BALANCE OF POWER," TURKEY HAD PUT ITS RELATIONS WITH THE SOVIETS ON SOUNDER GROUND THAN BEFORE.

C. RELATIONS WITH U.S. ECEVIT SAID THAT EVEN THOUGH TURKEY DID NOT BOW TO U.S. URGINGS LAST JULY NOT TO INTERVENE IN CYPRUS, IN THE END TURKISH-AMERICAN FRIENDSHIP WAS PLACED ON STRONGER FOUNDATIONS. REFERRING TO THE CUTOFF OF U.S. MILITARY ASSISTANCE, ECEVIT NOTED THAT, "THE TURCO-AMERICAN FRIENDSHIP AND ALLIANCE WAS BEING PLACED ON SUCH A FOUNDATION FOR THE FIRST TIME IN MANY YEARS AND THE PRESIDENT AND SECRETARY OF STATE OF THE USA WERE RISKING A CLASH WITH THEIR CONGRESS, WHICH WAS INFLUENCED BY THE VOTERS OF GREEK ORIGIN, IN ORDER TO CONTINUE THEIR ALLIANCE TIES WITH TURKEY. NOW THERE IS THE QUESTION OF THE U.S. AID TO TURKEY. THERE IS NO EXCUSE FOR THIS DECISION OF THE U.S. CONGRESS." IN ANOTHER REFERENCE TO THE CUTOFF, ECEVIT SAID: "IT IS THE CUT-OFF) MUST WORRY THE U.S. AND NATO MORE THAN US. WITH REALISM AND UNDERSTANDING THE AMERICAN ADMINISTRATION SEEMS TO BE WORKING TO MAKE UP FOR THIS GREAT MISTAKE. WHILE WAITING FOR THIS WE MUST ALSO PREPARE IN DETAIL THE MEASURES WE WILL TAKE FOR TURKEY'S SECURITY."

D. OPIUM. ECEVIT NOTED THAT THE METHOD OF HARVESTING THE POPPIES (I.E., POPPY STRAW PROCESS) ADOPTED BY THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT HAD MET WITH THE APPROVAL OF THE UN AND THE US STATE DEPARTMENT, AND THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY HAD RECENTLY VOTED TO EXTEND FINANCIAL AND ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO COUNTRIES WHICH FOLLOW THIS PROCESS.

E. DOMESTIC POLITICS. ECEVIT DWELT AT LENGTH ON THE REASONS FOR THE BREAKUP OF HIS COALITION WITH THE NATIONAL SALVATION PARTY, A PARTNER WHICH, HE CLAIMED, MADE IT IMPOSSIBLE TO MAKE RESPONSIBLE DECISIONS ON BOTH FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC POLICY. HE SPECIFICALLY CHARGED THE NSP WITH RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE LAST MINUTE CANCELLATION OF SECRETARY KISSINGER'S VISIT IN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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NOVEMBER. REGARDING THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT CRISIS, ECEVIT REITERATED HIS WELL-KNOWN POSITION THAT THE ONLY SOLUTION IS TO HOLD EARLY ELECTIONS. HE ADDED THAT A GOVERNMENT FORMED BY PARTIES EXCLUDING THE RPP COULD SOLVE NOTHING.

3. COMMENT: ECEVIT'S SPEECH, WHILE MODERATE IN TONE, EMPHASIZED THE THEMES OF AN INDEPENDENT TURKISH FOREIGN POLICY UNDER THE ECEVIT GOVERNMENT AND THE NEED FOR A STRONG

GOVERNMENT INCLUDING THE RPP TO DEAL WITH PERSISTENT PROBLEMS
AT HOME AND ABROAD. ECEVIT WAS CAREFUL TO POINT OUT THAT THE
ALLIANCE WITH THE U.S. HAD BEEN MAINTAINED, AND EXPRESSED HIS HOPE
THAT THE CURRENT CUTOFF OF MILITARY AID COULD BE RESOLVED.

4. RESULTS OF CONVENTION, WHICH IS CONCLUDING DECEMBER 18, WILL
BE REPORTED BY SEPTTEL.
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